



The Mannings85.Com Newsletter Issue - No.5

June 6th, 2009 "Providing Service For Today And Tomorrow From The Blessings Of Yesterday"

A Tribute To Mrs Jennifer Allen aka Nurse Khan



Mrs Jennifer Allen (most affectionately known as Nurse Khan) attended Manning's School as a student between 1966 and 1972. After leaving Manning's and attending nursing school overseas, she returned to Jamaica because her mother became ill; and she needed full time care and 'Nurse' wanted to be close to her during this period. She began looking for jobs at the public clinics and realised that the schedules offered would not be accommodating to the care she wanted to deliver to her mother. She heard about the opening for a school nurse at Manning's, applied and was successful in obtaining the position. This would give her the flexibility she needed personally. In 1982, Jennifer Khan returned to Manning's School as a nurse.

She recalls how, on her first day, Mr Neita introduced her to the students at an assembly in the auditorium – as a past student and the school's new nurse. "You could hear a pin drop" after the introduction. The students and some of the teachers were wondering how old she was; she did not look her age, and far too young to be a nurse.

Nurse Khan quickly became one of the most popular members of the faculty." Because I was not at the school in a teaching capacity, students were not intimidated by being around me". She worked in the PDC building, situated in an area of the school grounds that provided a relaxing and non-intrusive environment. This made it appealing for the students and, as a result, the PDC building quickly lost its 'the old building behind the tennis court' status. Because she was always so trendily dressed, girls around her became increasingly interested in fashion. They wanted to emulate the way she dressed; some even said they aspired to be like her.



Mannings85.Com Welcomes New Members

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- Diana Gopaulsingh (Teacher)
- Presca Sanford
- Erica Williams
- Bartlet Bird
- Anthony Badaloo
- Judine Patterson
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Nurse Khan was the 'new blood' at the school and came with fresh ideas, one of which was introducing dance lessons. This again attracted a fair amount of girls to her area, which then caught the attention of the boys. They started to hang around the PDC (Personal Development Counsellor) building to meet the girls, or just to be around Nurse. She felt empowered by this admiration and her increasing popularity, and used the opportunity to encourage everyone that was around her to try and do their best at whatever they were interested in doing.

Nurse was also the founder of the Miss Manning's competition. Her reason for starting Miss Manning's was to raise funds for the PDC department. When she started, funding was made available through the Manning Trust; however, she did not have a budget to be effective at her job. She observed many girl groups at Manning's (like the Pink Ladies) that were talented and interested in fashion and thought "Why don't I organize a talent contest to raise funds?" The Miss Manning's Talent Contest eventually turned into a beauty contest and became a very popular 'Parish' event.



The first year the competition was held is the one Nurse Khan is most proud of, because of the group of girls that were involved and the overwhelming response from the Manning's School student body, even years after. She was happy and ecstatic to have raised enough funds that would allow her to be more effective at her job as Nurse of Manning's. It also made her proud to see girls now having something to look forward to. After the first year, Pulse Magazine came and selected a bunch of girls from the contest for modelling duties. Nurse is most proud at the fact that Nikki Morris, once her protégé, was chosen for a cover shoot and went on to become an international model. "Sure was a great feeling".



She remained in the post as School Nurse until the end of the academic year in 1989, when she decided it was time to move on. She started out in beauty product sales, which she found very time consuming. Nurse then began providing consulting services, focussing on the planning of weddings. This quickly materialised into a successful venture, more than she had expected, and allowed her to launch a catering business as a service provider for weddings and other events. She is also the

- Treasurer/CFO

- **Neville Wilson** - CAO
- **Clement Boyd** - CSO
- **Maxine Gopaul** - Marketing Director
- **Terry Paul** - Editor In Chief



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Editors Comments



**Who Really
Change?**

proud owner and manager of Hotel Comingle, situated on Hudson Street in Savanna la Mar. "It's my baby".

Some of Nurse Khan's most memorable moments of her time working at Manning's include Nikki Morris being selected by Pulse, improvement to the PDC's infrastructure (which she instigated), students that hung around her feeling the need to perform well, parents approaching her for help in encouraging improvement in their children academically or in behaviour, and 'problem children' seeking refuge and advice at the PDC, where she was always willing to accommodate them. She is happy that she was a part of all their lives and honoured that she was an influence. She is extremely happy that students that were influenced by her went on to be successful men and women of the world. For others that feel like they have not achieved what they really wanted, her simple message is "it's not too late to get yours. There is always time to accomplish your goals and I hope you all continue to reach for the stars".

About a month ago, at the annual Curry Festival, Nurse ran into Courtney "TT" Bahador, a past student. She had had TT suspended from attending school for drinking a Red Stripe beer during school hours in the Auditorium. When she saw TT, she noticed he was hiding something behind him. After enquiring, he shared with her that he was drinking a beer, but soon remembered he was now an adult and could drink beer. Such is the lasting, positive influence she had on students in her time that she is able to see the outstanding people they now become.

T. Paul (Newsletter Chief Editor)

Profile On Neville Wilson (CAO) - Manning's 85, Inc.



Neville Wilson, aka "Trouble", hails from Strawberry All Age School and attended Manning's from 1980 – 1985. On leaving Manning's, Trouble worked and was formally trained in Accounting at Parnell Kerr Foster Accountants. He then studied with the American College of Optometry where he became a certified/qualified Optometric Assistant and also a lifetime member of the American Optometric Association.

Trouble then found his calling in religion and secured a Diploma in Discipleship and Ministry. He became a Preacher in the Jamaica Baptist Union, did Teacher Trainer in Evangelism Explosion International. He became Chairman on the Regional Advisory Committee of

Evangelism Explosion in Jamaica. He also spends a lot time both as Sunday School Youth Division Teacher and Savanna La Mar Baptist Church Youth Director. He is a member of both the Savanna La Mar Baptist Church Senior Choir and the Savanna La Mar Baptist Church Men's Choir. He is now a Full time Dump Truck Driver (Self employed).

He has been happily married for over 14 years to Marcia who he calls his "Putus", his favorite Person and lifetime partner. He states with no apology that his best friend is Donald Gordon. Trouble's passion would be to see all his friends, relatives and the entire Manning's Community accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. He spends his spare time reading, bible studying, linking up with old friends/schoolmates, giving jokes, bush cooking and relaxing at the riverside or beach. He loves playing sponge ball, tennis ball cricket and simply being plain old trouble.

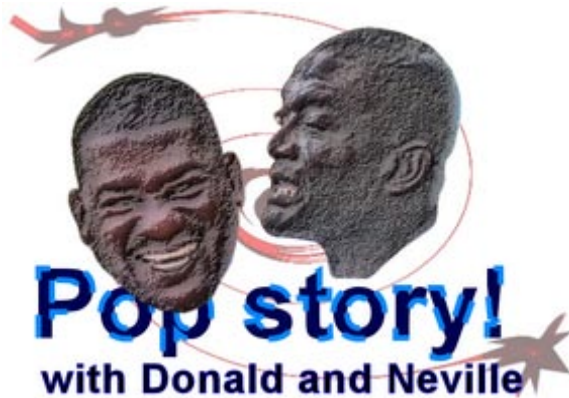
Greetings mi people. Dis month the editor decide fi talk bout how much tings change.

When I attended Manning's, our main focus was book, book and more book. This was the source of our learning and many of us used to pack wi bag so til' it start buss out, just to make sure that when we were in class, we had our books. We had very few distractions or at least, we were encouraged that books was the biggest source of learning.

So how has this really changed, well, there is no doubt that the computer is one of the biggest technological advances we've seen. Students nowadays have the opportunity to do things we could only sit back and dream about. They are able to tap into resources at the touch of a button that can provide them with answers to complex problems, reference materials for research, online tutoring and much more, but how is this impacting on them?

I happened to tune in to some kids on a talk show in Jamaica recently, nice kids, all of whom were attending Manning's and they were talking about how they kick back and play "sony playstation". In a our day, all we had was maybe a likkle Rubiks cube. We all know that all work and no play makes Jack a duncy billy, but can it be right that kids can take hand held electronic games to school? Shouldn't they really be spending

The first day he attended Manning's, he watched the town boys as they used to expertly cross the road at Lewis Street between the Shell and Texaco gas stations while the vehicular traffic was still moving. He tried to cross like dem and almost got hit by a Land Rover pick up! The editor says, country man fi know dem limitations!



Eh, Ehm – the names in this joke have been altered to protect de innocent!

Certain man have a girl-friend (she was a girl and she was 'im frien') who was in love and live wid a man in uniform. After a while tings start to deteriorate, as uniform man was a very jealous bredda and wanted to bully certain man girl-friend. De girl loved uniform man but was very scared of him, so she was contemplating leaving him. Months passed and the relationship got worse, so certain man (out of the kindness of him heart) encouraged her to get out of the relationship (in odder words, leggo de bwoy). She planned to, but wasn't sure how to do it, as de wutless uniform man was threatening har.



Certain man (gone inna Sherlock Holmes mode) tell de girl fi check uniform man schedule fi si what him movements was. Girl-friend found it difficult to obtain de information, so she wait until one day when uniform man gone out a town pon business. She then called certain man straightaway and quick, quick time, certain man reach roun' deh wid removal van.

Heh! Yu shoulda si how certain man start pack up girl-friend tings dem fast! De only tings dem lef inna de house was de man uniform an a component set (yu coulda fit everyting inna one

lada bag).

Certain man also decide fi lef half can a condense milk and half a peg bread fi de uniform man. After certain man finish pack up all a girl-friend tings dem, him go back inna de house an full one jug a water. Him mix in the half can a condense milk, den him siddung an drink it and nyam off all the peg bread to! Poor uniform man come back an find the de can, de jug, an all the bread bag wash out an tun' dung inna de kitchen!!



more time on the play fields?

I can recall when I went to school, girls used to have to beg their parents hard to "process" their hair. Nowadays, it seems, if a young girl's hair is not processed going to school, she naw seh nutten! Gone are the days of the straightening comb and the girls who would come to school wid a likkle one burn from the comb.

Some people would say the kids nowadays have it too easy, but do they? It seems that there is so much choice nowadays that if we were presented with these choices back then, I wonder how many of us woulda did handle it.

The students now can have lunch at KFC, popeye's, Juicy Patties, in a our day, we used to have to mek do wid de canteen or some a we used to go home fi lunch. The up so people dem used to go to Hammonds and Gloria's Pastry. So I guess we had some choices back then too.

I write this piece because I feel its necessary to show that there's good and bad in everyting. Some of the changes that have happened, have no doubt been good, because with no computers, there would be no internet, there would none of the leaps we've made in telecommunnications, much of which, relies heavily on the computer.

But the very same computer opens students

De moral of the story is, don't ill-treat yu woman or else somebody else will happily come along and mix condensed milk inna yu kitchen!

A nuh wi seh so, a so wi hear sah!



What Have We Done So Far And Our Future Plans

This month we thought we'd give you a break from the norm and actually *show* you just what your money is doing for Manning's School - the photos below show the current work being done to replace windows and to build more secure fencing around the school.



up to a whole world of indecency and without the proper safeguards, can have a detrimental effect on impressionable young minds. I've seen some chatrooms with current Manning's students on them and some of the things I see them writing! If some people only knew! Their parents woulda probably seh, "no sah, not my pickney!"

Considering the amount of money the kids from Manning's probably spend at places like KFC, what have they done for Manning's? This is a case where you could ask, what have these changes really done for our kids? I can bet you that many Manning's kids have Digicel mobile phones but what have these places actually done for the kids of Manning's. I know in our time, Hurry-Hurry used to sponsor tings for Manning's and so did many other businesses in Sav. Hmmm ... it worth tinkering about nuh true?

Kids nowadays have access to mobile phones. Back then, wi neva even have a walkie-talkie. Wi used to have to queue up downtown to use the few likkle call box dem weh did dung deh. Jamintel use to mek wi suffa bad sah! If you did more fortunate, yu mighta have a house phone.

Is it a good thing that kids can have access to mobile phone? Yes, I suppose it provides kids with a way in which they can now communicate with their parents and friends much



Don't forget to stay tuned for information on the various past student Link-ups around the world. Details will be posted on the recently introduced Calendar of Events.

Feedback on the curry festival in the next issue and look 'ere nuh, we're still looking for MSC members to submit articles for future issues of the Mannings85.com newsletters. If we don't start receiving some soon, we're going to have to resort to taking your stories off the blogs! Don't laugh.

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more than we were ever able to do. But, does it invite unwanted attention, it certainly can.

As life goes on, changes will happen, things will evolve and so must we. We have to embrace the changes and look at how we can incorporate them responsibly into the lives of our children. A typical example is how much more forward children are these days i.e. they are more opinionated and more inclined to express their opinions. This is a definite change to the way we were but do we push them in a corner and tell them "children should be seen and not heard?"

So back to my original question, wha really change? The world has changed and we must change with it too. We are no longer the future. The future are these very same kids that we like to chastise and rebuke. We do this because we fail to identify with them, we fail to engage with them, we don't make enough time to understand that they can never be like us. They are an extension of us and they will take on their own personas.

The best you can hope for is that they pick the best things out of what you've taught them. I look at my kids and I think, there are things that I see them do that makes me proud as I know, I was never that advanced at their age likewise, I can see where they are naive and I try to teach them my life experiences as part of the

arsenal they will have to go forward in this world.

Til next time mi people, walk and live good.

Terry Paul - Editor In Chief

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